(ग) निर्यातकों के प्रयोग के लिए विभिन्न शासकीय संगठनों द्वारा बड़ी संख्या में व्यापारिक पत्रिकाएं निकाली जा रही हैं ।

Thrust Commodities' for Exports

1064. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the items identified by Government as "thrust commodities" to boost the country's exports during Seventh Plan period and what steps Government propose to take to increase the export of each of them;

(b) what was the target fixed for the current year for export and what is the performance so far; and

(c) what is the gap in the balance of trade and in what manner Government propose to bridge it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The following sectors have been identified which can provide a substantial contribution to our exports in the medium term; Tea specially in packaged and value-added forms; Cereals; Processed foods, including fruits and juices meat and meat products and fresh fruits and vegetables; Marine products, especially in value-added forms; Iron ore; Leather and leather manufactures, with an emphasis on the latter; Handicrafts and jewellery; Capital goods and consumer durables; Electronics goods and Computer software; Basic chemicals; Fabrics, piece-goods and made-ups; Readymade garments woollen fabrices and Knitwear and projects and Services. Special attention would be paid to these products sectors in our export effort.

(b) The Commerce Ministry has set an export target of Rs. 11,736 orders for the current financial year. During the first four months of the current financial year i.e. April to July, 1985, for which data are available, exports on the basis of provisional figures amounted to Rs. 2942.04 crores.

(c) The trade deficit during April to July, 1985 is Rs. 3079.08 crores. The Government proposes to bridge the gap in balance of trade by generating production for promoting exports and increasing the domestic production of importables, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Taking over of Viseswaraya Iron and Steel Limited

1065. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government has recently requested the Central Government to take over the Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Central Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) The request received from the Karnataka Government regarding taking over of Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited by the Central Government has been examined. Government of India do not propose to take over this plant.

Permission for opening of New Branches by Canara Bank

1066. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Canara Bank has applied for opening of new branches in Chitradurge District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, since how long this application is pending; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Canara Bank had applied to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening of branches in the following centres in Chitradurga District under the Branch Licensing Policy for 1982—85:

1. Malebennur,
2. JCR/VP Extension,
3. Shamanur,
4. Melakalnur,
5. Jagalur and
6. Parasurampura.

Considering all relvant factors, these applications which were pending as on 31-3-1985 were treated as lapsed by Reserve Bank of India on expiry of the Branch Licensing Policy Period 1982—85.

Subsequent to 1-4-85, only one application for the centre H. Kalpanahalli in the District has been received by RBI from Canara Bank.

The application which was received on 22-5-85 will be considered by the RBI in the light of the current Branch Licensing Policy which has been finalised recently.

Setting up of Manpower Corporations

1067. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has directed the State Governments to consider setting up of man-power corporations to utilise the employment opportunities abroad and to protect the interests of the workers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of each State thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A formal request to some of the State Governments was made to set up manpower Corporations to utilise the opportunities abroad and to protect the interests of workers.

(c) Delhi Administration has responded positively towards setting up of a man-power corporation. While replies from other State Governments are awaited.

World Bank's Observations on Indian Economy

1068. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main observations on Indian economy in the World Bank's Annual Report released in September last;

(b) whether the Bank emphasises the need of international community increasing the assistance to South Asian Countries like India on highly concessional rates; and

(c) what was the total borrowing of India in 1985 from World Bank and I.D.A.?

THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The World Bank Annual Report mentions that in fiscal 1985, the Indian economy continued to grow at a rate well above its long-term average. The growth in GDP is estimated at 4.0 per cent, compared with 8.0 per cent in fiscal 1984 and 2.1 per cent in fiscal 1983 when India was recovering from a very poor monsoon. While the recovery of economy in fiscal 1984 was largely the result of growth in agricultural output, economic growth in fiscal 1985